

Abstract

5 A method of conferencing involves forming a main
conference between a plurality of users, providing a
user with an option to request a subconference with a
subset of other users, forming a subconference between
said user and the subset of other users, and at least
10 partially removing those users in the subconference
from the main conference during the subsistence of the
subconference. The conference is preferably a
multimedia conference and the subconference can be
conducted in an arbitrary mix of one or more of the
15 media used in the main conference. Subconference
participants have the option of monitoring proceedings
in the main conference by receiving some of the main
conference media signals while the subconference is in
progress. The invention also provides conference
20 servers, terminals and software for use in the
subconferencing method.